

1653

1903

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HISTORIC

HUNTINGTON

LONG ISLAND

N. Y.



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HISTORIC HUNTINGTON

1653-1903

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of the Settlement of
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Introduction

THIS little volume is produced as a souvenir of Huntington. It does not pretend to be a history. It does not claim to present all the attractions of the good old town. It can be, from its very nature, scarcely more than a suggestion as to what Huntington has been, is, and will be. It is presented as a fragment of true history, collected from the most reliable sources and also as a meagre glimpse into the beauties and advantages which nature has bestowed upon the region.

It must be explained that the section which is celebrating in the year 1903 its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary includes not only the present town of Huntington but also the town of Babylon, for this latter town was originally a part of Huntington. It then extended across Long Island, from

the Sound to the Sea. Within the bounds of this large township are now the villages of Huntington, Coldspring Harbor, Halesite, Fair Ground, Greenlawn, Centreport, Northport, Larkfield, Commack, Elwood, Melville, Pinelawn, Deer Park, Wyandance, Babylon, Lindenhurst, and Amityville, each of which has been dignified with a separate post office, besides many other settlements and hamlets of equal natural attraction and considerable importance.

This book can only mention some of the conditions which have made Huntington what it is to-day. It cannot undertake to mention them all. It merely suggests the reasons why Huntingtonians can with real pride invite the outside world to look in upon them and see what has been done with the advantages at hand.



"Makin' Land"

“Huntingdon”

“**A** POST-TOWN of New-York; situated in Suffolk C., Long Island, at the bottom of Brandon harbour, which sets S. by E. from the Sound. It contains about 70 dwellings, a Presbyterian and an Episcopal church, but the latter has no settled minister. It is 38 miles E. by N. of New-York, and 133 from Philadelphia.”—*From Scott's U. S. Gazetteer, Philadelphia, December 1st, 1795.*

The Author says : “ Mileage obligingly furnished by Mr. Patton of the Post-Office.”



BOUTON'S POINT—SEPARATING HUNTINGTON AND LLOYD HARBORS

In the Beginning

THERE is in the archives at Hague, Holland, a report; a letter of information, by Secretary Van Tienhoven, to the States General of the United Netherlands, dated March 4, 1650. He describes an expedition through Long Island Sound, speaks of various bays and harbors, more especially of Oyster Bay. Then he refers to a bay which he calls Martinnehonck, as follows: "This bay is much deeper and wider than Oyster Bay, and runs westward in, divides into three rivers, two of which are navigable; the smallest stream runs up in front of the Indian village called Martinnehonck, where they have their plantations. This tribe is not strong, and consists of about thirty families. There were formerly in and about this bay great numbers of Indian plantations which now lie waste and vacant. This land is mostly level and of good quality, well adapted for grain and all sorts of cattle; on the rivers are numerous valleys of sweet and salt meadows. All sorts of fish are caught there."

Such is apparently the first written report of the region about Huntington Bay. It is worthy of note here that it was the custom of the early Dutch navigators to call harbors running far inland rivers regardless of whether the water was salt or fresh. Coldspring Harbor was called "Machaquetack River," etc.

The country about Huntington Bay was inhabited by the Matinecock Indians, hence the name used by the Dutch: Martinnehonck.

The town of Huntington was settled in 1653—250 years ago. The settlers were Englishmen, though nearly all had lived some years in New England, the Bahamas, and many of them also in towns on Long Island. All had left England within twenty years preceding their arrival at Huntington.

Huntington township was occupied by three tribes of Indians. The Matinecocks occupied the north shore of Long Island from Nissequogue (now Smithtown) River on the east to Scouts or Cow Bay in Hempstead, now North Hempstead,



HOME OF JOHN WOOD, "HUNTER," ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS

on the west. The Massapeague tribe inhabited the southwest part of the town and adjoining territory on the west. The Secatogue tribe held land east of these through to the eastern part of Islip.

The first purchase of land was made by three of the inhabitants of Oyster Bay from " ' Rascokan Sagamore of the Matinnicocks, of the one part; and Richard Houlbrock, Robart Williams, and Daniel Whitehead, their heirs or assigns, certain quantitie of land lying and being upon Long Island, bounded upon the west side with a river commonly called by the Indians Machaquetack, on the north side by the sea and going eastward to a river called Opcatkowtycke, on the south side to the utmost part of my bounds; promising, and by virtue hereof I do promise to free the above said lands from all title off and claim that shall be made unto it by reason of any former act; in consideration of which land the aforesaid Richard Houlbrock, Robart Williams, and Daniel Whitehead doth promise unto the said Rascokon as followeth: 6 coats, 6 kettles, 6 hatchets, 6 howes, (hose), 6 shirts, 10 knives, 6 fathom of wampum,

30 muxes (small brad awls), 30 needles; further the said sachem doth promise to go, or send some one, in twenty days to show and mark out the bounds, and in case it prove not according to expectation then this writing to be voyde and of none efectt, but in case it be, then this writing to stand in full force, power and virtue.

" ' Witness our hands the 2th of Aprill, 1653.

The mark of
RICHARD + HOULBROCK
ROBART + WILLIAMS
DANIEL + WHITHEAD

" ' The mark +
of the SAGAMORE
the mark + of HEWOIKES
the mark + of MUHAMA
the mark + of SYIAR.'

" The marks of 20 other
Indians are given.

" On the same day that this deed was given by the Indians to the Oyster Bay men named in it as grantees, the latter assigned all their interest in the premises to certain residents of Huntington,



MEETING HOUSE BUILT IN 1784—THE ORIGINAL MEETING HOUSE WAS
ERECTED IN 1665

who became the proprietors and they and their descendants, or assigns, were ever after called the proprietors of the first or 'old' purchase. This tract from Coldspring Harbor to a brook running into Northport Harbor and from the Sound to about the old country road is about six miles square.

"The first settlers of Huntington were a body of men, equally distinguished for the soundness of their morals and the purity of their lives. They were characterized by peculiar sternness of principle, and singular exactness in the discharge of every duty. They looked on every species of vice with a kind of instinctive abhorrence.

"They brought to this country an unconquerable repugnance to arbitrary rule.

"Among the earliest settlers are the names of James Chichester, John Conklin and his son Timothy, Robert Cranfield, Jeffrey Este, Isaac and Epenetus Platt, Jonathon Porter, John Sammis, Thomas Scudder and his brother Henry, Thomas Skidmore, John Smith, John Strickland, John Teed, Abiel, John, Samuel, and Content Titus, brothers; Joseph Whitman, Thomas Wicks.

"Jonas Wood, of Halifax, came in 1654, and the next year his father Edman. Edman Wood was an old man and soon died. Jonas Wood, of Halifax, was drowned in crossing the Peconic River, probably in the last part of the year 1663. Jonas Wood, of Oram, was called also Justice Wood because he was justice of the peace. Timothy Wood died in Huntington in 1659.

"Wm. Rogers arrived early with Jonas Wood and Thomas Wilkes (Wicks). He made the eastern purchase—'from Cows Harbor brocke to MESAQNOCK RIVER'—in 1656.

"Jonathon Rogers, son of William Rogers, appears in the records about the same time.

"Rev. William Leverick was the first minister, taking charge in 1657-58. The minister was called by the town and paid by the town. The first church was built by the town and, when the population outgrew it, it was enlarged pursuant to a vote in town meeting. A committee was appointed to see that the work was done and a 'rate' was laid for it.

"Thomas Fleet came before 1660. He was a large land owner and vessel owner later.



WEST NECK— OVERLOOKING THE BAY AND TRIBUTARIES

" Thomas Matthews was probably the first merchant. He located on the east side of Huntington Harbor before 1660.

" Stephen Jarvis came from Southold and settled as early as 1658 on East Neck.

" Thomas Brush came from Southold to Huntington in 1656-57. He died soon after 1670 and left children, Thomas, Richard, John, and Rebecca, who all remained in Huntington.

" John Cory came from Southold about 1659; was town clerk in 1664 and later.

" John Ketcham held many official positions.

" Henry Whitney was in Huntington among the first settlers.

" Robert Williams was a Welchman and a man of intelligence.

" Jonas Holdsworth was the first school teacher so far as known.

" One of the first things the people of Huntington did was to establish a school and it was practically a ' free school ' to those residing within the town limits."



PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS ALONG THE BROOKS OF COLDSPRING HARBOR

In Colonial Days

HUNTINGTON'S first settlers were fully as migratory as their descendants. Many of the prominent settlers had lived in two or three places in New England, some in four, and in a town or two on Long Island before coming to Huntington. Lists of those living here only a few years after the settlement do not contain all the names of those who came and lived for a time.

As a rule the Indians were justly dealt with by the first settlers and there were few difficulties between the whites and the Indians. Though the Indians had given deeds of the lands they had reserved the right to hunt, so that they continued to dwell in their old wigwams and mingled more or less with the whites. They were peaceful.

It is presumed that many of the settlers came by water, landing at Huntington Harbor. The lands around the harbor and immediately south of it were first settled. Along the highway leading south from the east side of the harbor lived Thomas Scudder, Richard Higbie, John Betts,

James Chichester, Robert Cranfield, Nathaniel Foster, Stephen Jarvis, Thomas Powell, Isaac Platt, Thomas Weeks, Jonas Wood, Thomas Whitson, Henry Whitney, Richard Bryant, and Thomas Scidmore. Down East Neck were, among others, Henry Scudder, Jeffrey and Isaac Esty, Mark Meggs, Thomas Fleet, John Jones, Thomas Joanes, and John Finch. At West Neck, John Sammis, Jonas Brush, John Corey, Timothy and John Conklin, Abial and probably John and Henry also Edward Titus, John Teed, Richard Williams, Timothy Wood, and others were building themselves homes. It seems impossible to locate William or Jonathon Rogers. Many of their descendants were in the east part of the town. William Rogers was, as we have seen, one of the purchasers of the "East Purchase" and he and others had one of the ten farms into which it was divided. Jonathon Rogers built a saw mill at Coldspring and in 1691 had a grant to build a grist mill there and was given the iron and mill stones of the old mill.



HEAD WATERS OF THE HARBOR AND THE HILLS OF CENTREPORT

The settlers early secured the services of a minister, the Rev. William Leverich, about 1658. He remained until 1669 when he removed to Newtown, Long Island.

Town meetings in the early period were held at various times when any business needed attention and all business was attended to at the town meeting. Grants of land were made; contracts were made for the erection of mills, the contract with the schoolmaster, etc., all were made at town meeting. As the population increased it was not convenient for the whole number of citizens to meet two, three, four or more times a year, so in 1667 a constable and four overseers were chosen, and after that time one finds "Orders made by Constable and Townsmen." One order related to firing the woods; another "Ordered that every man having sufficient warning to attend a town meeting shall come to the place appoynted at the time appoynted: and for neglect herein they shall pay as followeth, for not coming at the ower six pence, for not coming at all three shillings, and for goeing away without Leave from the Company twel pence, and on them that is found Delinquent

and Denies to pay it shall be taken by Destres forth with."

In 1666 there were 57 freeholders and heads of families, which in 1684 increased to 84. A committee was appointed to enquire as to those who proposed to settle in the town and none were admitted unless approved by the committee.

As Mr. Leverich had left, the town voted "that the Constable and Overseers should do what they could toward procuring a minister and what they did or procured to be done herein the town would rest satisfied; and so left it wholly to their disposing."

The men able to bear arms were enlisted in companies under officers chosen by themselves, and "training" was an early institution in Huntington.

Laws were made requiring every man to provide himself with arms and ammunition for the defense of the settlement, for the division of lands, enclosing of fields, regulation of highways and watering places, for the destruction of wild beasts, collection of taxes, establishment and support of a school, for the prevention and punishment of



INTERESTING SHORE LINE OF LLOYD HARBOR—SCENE OF MANY SKIRMISHES IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

crime, the preservation of good morals, the support of a minister. Mechanics were invited, and induced to locate in the town by gifts of land, and promise of support.

Ananias Carle, of Hempstead, was induced to settle in the town by a gift of a large farm in Dix Hills as he was a military man, and the people needed an officer to command their local militia efficiently for protection against the Dutch.

The Rev. Eliphalet Jones remained with this people fifty-four years until his death, aged 91, but in 1719 the Rev. Ebenezer Prime was employed as his assistant, and in 1723 he was ordained and installed as a colleague pastor.

The early Huntingtonians were very strict in the observance of the Sabbath, and punished any inhabitant for desecrating the day.

The women at the close of the seventeenth, and even of the eighteenth century, carried heated stones or bricks to church in their muffs and the men at church put their feet in fur bags or moccasins, with which many seats were provided. At a late date foot stoves were used. Swords were customarily worn, when in full dress, by persons

both in a civil and military capacity. Hats were made with broad brims and steeple crowns. The coats were made with a long, straight body, falling below the knees, with no collar, or a very low one, so that the stock or neck cloth, of spotless linen, fastened behind with a silver buckle, was fully displayed. Red woolen stockings were much admired.

Richard Nichols, the first Colonial Governor, convened a meeting of two Deputies from every town on Long Island, at Hempstead, on the 1st of March, 1665. The Deputies from the town of Huntington were Jonas Wood and John Ketcham. The "Duke's Laws" were enacted and put in force at this meeting. The Deputies signed a very fulsome address to the Duke of York, pledging loyalty as his faithful subjects, which did not meet with the approval of their constituents, and on their return to their homes they were handled without gloves by the people, and insulted in various ways.

Governor Nichols insisted that the town should take out a patent from him. This is dated November 30, 1666.

The subsequent patents from Governor Dongan



LOW TIDE AT THE HEAD OF NORTHPORT HARBOR

and Governor Fletcher were very similar, differing in some minor points, but not in the vital grant. It seemed necessary to have a new patent because the governor had a good fee for granting a new patent.

In 1723, June 5, when Rev. Ebenezer Prime was ordained, there were 41 members of the church, 14 men and 27 women. Mr. Jones, the pastor, is added to the men, making 15.

The original church was enlarged once. It stood fifty years, till 1715. The first church was in the valley west of the present edifice. The exact position is unknown, but it was beside Meeting House Brook. The second church stood where the present one stands. When the British occupied Huntington they drove the pastor from his horse, put horses in his stable, bedded them with his unthreshed wheat, destroyed some of his books, tore leaves out of others to spoil them without taking the trouble to destroy the whole book, destroyed one volume of a set to ruin the work, etc. They tore out the seats of the church for firewood, used the church as a storehouse, afterward as a riding school, finally as a stable.

At last in November, 1782, more than a year after the surrender of Cornwallis, Colonel Thompson, the commander of the garrison here at that time, ordered the church torn down and used the lumber in building Fort Golgotha. The present building was erected on the same site in 1783.

The church was at first Congregational, it became Presbyterian in 1748, but elders were first elected in 1754.

The only other denomination to come before the Revolution was the Episcopal, which erected a church in 1750. Other denominations have since built churches in the town.

A small church edifice was erected on the south side about 1730. There was probably no church organization then. The building was used occasionally until 1778, when the British tore it down and removed the lumber to Hempstead to build barracks. When it was rebuilt after the war a Presbyterian Church was organized.

At an early period a grist mill and a saw mill were erected on a stream called Ireland's Brook in Amityville.

As early as June 21, 1774, Huntington, at a town



SALT MEADOWS AND HARBOR—FROM GRIST MILL DAM, COLDSPRING HARBOR

meeting, put forth her declaration of rights as follows:

"1st.—That every freeman's property is absolutely his own, and no man has a right to take it from him without his consent, expressed either by himself or his representatives.

"2d.—That therefore all taxes and duties imposed on His Majesty's subjects in the American Colonies by the authority of Parliament are wholly unconstitutional and a plain violation of the most essential rights of British subjects.

"3d.—That the act of Parliament for shutting up the port of Boston, or any other means * * under color of law to compel them or any other of His Majesty's American subjects to submit to Parliamentary taxation, are subversive of their just and constitutional liberty.

"4th.—We are of opinion that our brethern of Boston are suffering in the common cause of British America.

"5th.—That it is the indispensable duty of all colonies to unite in some effectual measure for the repeal of said act, and every other act of Parliament whereby they are taxed for raising a revenue.

"6th.—That in our opinion the most effectual means to this end is to break off all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West India Colonies.

"7th.—And we declare ourselves ready to enter into these or such other measures as shall be agreed upon by a general congress of all the colonies * * *.

"And, lastly, we appoint Col. Platt Conklin, John Sloss Hobart, Esq., and Thomas Wickes, a committee of this town to act in conjunction with the committees of other towns in the county, to correspond with the committee of New York."

As it became evident that the British government intended to coerce the colonies into submission military organizations sprung up everywhere. Of the 1st or Western Regiment of Suffolk County, Gilbert Potter, of this town, was lieutenant colonel. Three companies were raised in Huntington at first and later two more, and Jesse Brush was a major in the regiment.

They were about to join the American army when the disastrous battle of Long Island caused them to disband.



THE BOUNDARY OF "HUNTINGTON SOUTH"—OLD OCEAN OFF BABYLON

“Huntington South”

THE portion of the original township of Huntington which is now included in the town of Babylon was formerly called “Huntington South,” and while nearly the entire population of this section was favorable to the cause of independence, there were a few who refused to aid in what they regarded as a rebellion against the constituted government. Among this small minority was one Arthur Dingee. He owned a large tract of land, a part of which is now embraced in the present incorporated village of Babylon. The tract lay on both sides of the Sumpawams road, extending from the present Railroad Avenue north to the nursery of Prince H. Foster. Mr. Dingee appears to have been a decided loyalist, and doubtless acted in accordance with his convictions.

After the occupation of Long Island by the British troops he served as captain of militia, having superseded the captain commissioned under the Colonial government—probably Captain Platt. There is evidence that Captain Dingee assisted

with his men as an officer in the British service in 1776 and 1777, in the work of constructing a fort at Lloyd Neck. On August 19, 1779, General Delancy issued an order to Captain Dingee to have two hundred and ten men of the Suffolk County militia parade with their blankets, on Monday, August 23, 1779, to be employed in repairing and constructing the fort at Brooklyn, and to cut, hew, and transport seventy-five thousand pieces of timber, pickets, fascines, etc., to be used in the work. To this order Captain Dingee returned answer that it was impossible. Obviously it was a difficult order to enforce. At that time the loyalists (called Tories) complained that the patriots (rebels) of the town of Huntington were very insolent and were only restrained by the presence of Royal troops. Upon the receipt of Captain Dingee's letter General Delancy issued a more positive order containing the following:

“If the requisition of men and material for the purpose before mentioned is not immediately complied with a detachment of troops will be sent into



ONE OF AMITYVILLE'S OLD HOMESTEADS

that district, and every person who shall refuse to contribute his assistance toward a work in which the King's services and the interest of the loyal inhabitants are so blended, shall be turned, without distinction, out of Long Island, and their farms will be allotted for the support of those who have suffered for real attachment to government."

Of course further resistance to the order was useless, and it was generally complied with. Governor Tryon also, in like manner, many times gave orders to captains of the militia of Huntington town to have cut, and sent to New York City, large quantities of wood for the use of the British troops.

About the year 1783, the Legislature of the State of New York enacted the so-called "*trespass act*" by which suits could be brought against all persons acting under British authority who had impressed horses, cattle, men, wagons, or wood belonging to patriotic owners. The law made

those British agents personally liable for acts which, in many instances, they could not avoid doing. Besides, those involuntary "*trespassers*" could be tried in a county in which they did not reside. The year 1783 was the year that tried the souls of the loyalists, as the years immediately preceding had tried the souls of patriots. Mr. Dingee, realizing that the enforcement of the trespass act would deprive him of all his property, executed to his son Selah a warranty deed for all real, and a bill of sale for all his personal property; and fled to St. John, Nova Scotia (now New Brunswick). In 1792 he returned to his home on Long Island. Mr. Dingee had spent about eight years in exile, and during that time the enmity to the loyalists had softened to such a degree that he could dwell at his old home on terms of friendship with his neighbors. Mr. Dingee lived a number of years after his return, and was a liberal contributor to the support of the Presbyterian church.



FORT FRANKLIN, LLOYD NECK—AN IMPORTANT BRITISH OUTPOST IN REVOLUTIONARY TIMES

Fortifications in Huntington

HUNTINGTON was the scene of active operations in the colonial period. Both the British and the Continental forces considered this section of sufficient importance to warrant attention. The British had several forts within the township, the most important of which was Fort Golgotha.

In the fall of 1782 the crowning outrage to the feelings of the patriots in Huntington was committed by Colonel Benjamin Thompson, a Massachusetts Tory who was stationed here with six hundred men. Already the old First Presbyterian Church had been torn down and now, although the articles of peace had been drawn up, Colonel Thompson ordered the beams, timber, and planks to be used in the construction of a fort in the center of the village. This he named Fort Golgotha.

The spot honored on July 4, 1903, by the raising of Old Glory has been desecrated by the tread of hundreds of Tory feet. It was this place Colonel Thompson chose as fitting for his fort and one

which would cause most humiliation to the inhabitants. On the top of this hill one hundred grave stones were leveled and the old residents were set to work digging the ditch. An earthwork was thrown up six feet high around the fort, which was two acres in extent. It faced the north and was five rods wide with a gate in the middle. Colonel Thompson erected his own marquee close to the grave of the Rev. Ebenezer Prime, a brave and especially active patriot, in order that he might "tread on the old rebel whenever he went in or out."

Using the earthwork for one side, the soldiers constructed their barracks of the timber brought from the First Church and the buildings in the vicinity which had been torn down. The tombstones were used as tables and ovens, and it is said that many of the people saw the reversed inscription from the stones erected to the memory of their friends on the bread which the British ate. Some of the gravestones were carted as far as West Hills by relatives of the dead and there



ALL THAT REMAINS OF WEST HILLS STONE BLOCK HOUSE, ERECTED AS A PROTECTION AGAINST
INDIANS

hidden until the destruction of the fort, after which they were returned to the old cemetery.

As the war was practically over before the erection of Fort Golgotha, it saw no active service. In 1784, after its evacuation by the British, it was leveled by the people and the material sold at auction. With the proceeds a fence was erected around the parsonage.

For protection against attack by water there were two forts on Lloyd Neck, one which commanded the waters at the east side of the neck, and Fort Franklin, on the summit of the high bluff overlooking Coldspring Harbor. Another fortification was close by the main road, on the summit of Gallows Hill, later called Fort Hill, east of the village. There were some defenses of minor importance in the central section of the township. The remains of one of these is still shown on the Place farm at West Hills.

Fort Franklin was situated upon the high ground at the west side of Lloyd Neck near to the

west end of Lloyd Harbor. It was a most important point in the days of British occupation. A strong force of His Majesty's men were in charge and with this as a base raids were made upon the surrounding region. Vast quantities of timber and cordwood were felled and the natural resources of this rich country were sadly depleted. Fort Franklin, with its companion earthworks on the east side of Lloyd Neck, at a point commanding Huntington Bay and its tributaries, offered protection for British ships which, to a considerable number, were anchored for varying periods in Huntington and Oyster Bays.

Colonial forces from Connecticut planned and attempted numerous attacks on these Lloyd Neck defenses and there were some lively actions. The fact that cannonball and heavy shot have been found at numerous points on Lloyd and West Necks gives mute evidence of the genuineness of the family traditions which have been handed down, telling of fierce engagements in this region.



NORTHPORT FROM THE WESTWARD—SPY HILL

Geography

THE territory embraced in the first township of Huntington, situated thirty to forty miles from New York City, included a strip across Long Island, from the Sound to the Ocean. The township of Babylon has since been formed from the southern part of the area. Hence the two towns are jointly interested in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the settlement. The geographical situation includes a great variety of country. North of the middle section is a range of hills, one of which rises to the highest point on Long Island. Jayne's Hill has an elevation of 421 feet, according to a U. S. government survey. From several of the hill tops one can see Long Island Sound on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. The northern half of the section is hilly, the southern part almost flat. There are numerous attractive streams and lakes of exceptionally clear water. Many of the hills are heavily wooded and the fields are fertile. The harbors and bays prove wonder-

fully pleasing, affording delightful facilities for boating, bathing, fishing, and all the salt water recreations.

On the north side of the region are the villages of Coldspring Harbor, Huntington, Centreport, and Northport, each with a frontage on salt water. Further south are Fair Ground, West Hills, Larkfield, Long Swamp, Dix Hills, Commack, Elwood, Melville, Wyandance, Deer Park, and Half Hollow Hills. Still further south are Pinelawn, Amityville, Lindenhurst, and Babylon.

The characteristics of the country in the earliest days of occupation by English-speaking people were such as to make it a self-supporting country. The colonists were thus enabled to make a comfortable living, and found it unnecessary to move on as they had done from other places before reaching Huntington. The development up to the present time has been a gradual and steady growth, and there never was a time when Huntington's prospects were brighter than in the year 1903.



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OLD TIME GARDENS

Journalism in Huntington

SAMUEL A. SEABURY established the *American Eagle* in 1821. In May, 1825, it was changed to *Long Island Journal of Philosophy and Cabinet of Variety*, published by Samuel Fleet. The name was changed in 1827 to *Portico*.

The *Long Islander* was established in 1836 by the

poet Walt Whitman, whose home was at West Hills. The name has never been changed.

The *Suffolk Democrat* was established by Edward Strayhan, a young man of ability, who died soon afterward. It has passed through many changes of management, and is now called the *Suffolk Bulletin*.



CAPTAIN KIDD LAKE, NEAR NORTHPORT—FORMERLY A SNUG HARBOR FOR
MARINERS

Captain Kidd Story

THERE is a story, which has been told so many times in Huntington as the truth, that it is firmly believed, to the effect that one of the members of the crew of Captain Kidd, the famous pirate, escaped from the pirate vessel in Huntington town, bought land, and made his home at Half Hollow Hills. The story is stoutly denied by some historians, but here it is. Take it as gospel truth or not.

Captain Kidd certainly did visit Huntington town. He was here with his vessel and his crew. It is alleged that the little sheet of water near Northport, now known as Sweetwater Lake, was in those days an arm of Long Island Sound, navigable for large vessels, and Kidd is said to have sought its shelter as a retired and safe anchorage. He is said also to have anchored in Coldspring Harbor. As the story goes, it was when the Kidd vessel was anchored there that Jacob Conklin was sent ashore to get a supply of fresh water. He is said to have been an unwilling member of the crew. Taking advantage of the opportunity to get away,

he ran into the woods and made his way to the south. A large hollow log is claimed to have given him shelter and cover from the prying eyes of his pursuers. Indeed, it is alleged that the crew of the ship, who came out for him, sat on the very log in which Conklin was concealed and made declarations with a great deal of emphasis as to what they would do with him if they should succeed in finding the runaway. Night coming on, they gave up the search and returned to the ship. Conklin is then alleged to have made his way toward the middle of the island, following what is now known as "Rogue's Pathway," thence out to Half Hollow Hills. There he met a friendly band of Indians who gave him shelter.

Conklin liked the treatment received so well, and was so pleased with the character of the locality, that he purchased a large tract of land. The fine old homestead, which was erected on a knoll, surrounded by numerous bubbling springs, is still standing and in a good state of preservation. The region is now named Wyandance.



WOOLEN MILL AT COLDSRING HARBOR—THE FIRST IN NEW YORK

Early Industries

EARLY in the history of the town of Huntington there were manufacturing industries of importance. Grist mills and saw mills were erected at Coldspring Harbor, Huntington Harbor, Centreport, and Northport. There were some run by tide water, others by the power from dammed streams. The only positively unique mill, for no other was ever made to run successfully on the same plan, was the windmill erected by Daniel Sammis at Huntington. The old mills at Coldspring Harbor, Huntington, and Centreport, still in use, are apparently good for many more years of active service. Generation after generation of the farmers of Huntington township have had grain ground at these mills and still the great wheels turn.

For about thirty years, from 1830 till the outbreak of the Civil War, the whaling industry made Coldspring Harbor a scene of business activity. The Coldspring Whaling Company, incorporated in 1830, owned eight ships, capacity about two thousand five hundred barrels each. The prosperity of

the whaling business made other lines of industry essential. There was a woolen mill where woolen goods, blankets, and carpet yarn were made for many years. There was a large cooperage shop just over the line in the next town which gave the locality the picturesque name Bungtown. Here the barrels and casks for holding the whale oil were manufactured complete. They were then taken apart and packed aboard the whale ships, to save room, and to be set up when they were needed. Shipyards were erected and vessels were built to engage in the coasting trade. With the close of the whaling industry the other lines of business failed and to-day the grist mill is the only scene of active industry connected with the good old times. From the first the Jones family has been directly allied with business interests at Coldspring Harbor. Huntington town has had other interesting lines of industry. At one time the place ranked among the first in the country in the manufacture of silver and gold thimbles. The Primes were connected with this work many years, using



STILL WORKING—THE NOTED POTTERY AT HUNTINGTON HARBOR

the power from Meeting House Brook to turn the wheels.

At one time Huntington sent large quantities of bread as far west as New York and as far east as Port Jefferson. Large quantities of live stock were raised for the purpose of supplying the markets of New York and Brooklyn. In later years shell fisheries have taken a far more important position commercially, and oysters, clams, and scallops are now shipped from Huntington waters in great quantities every year.

The shipment of screened sand and gravel from the beaches along the shores of Long Island Sound and the bays has developed into an important source of revenue. Huntington materials thus form a valuable part of the building materials in all the large cities along the Atlantic Coast.

Very prominent was the curious wind-mill which for many years was the most conspicuous building in the village, erected in 1825 by Daniel Sammis, near the Methodist Church, Main Street; a big wooden eagle which surmounted the tall shaft was a roughly carved image and is still in existence. The purpose for which the mill was erected is told

in this circular issued the year after the mill was started:

WIND-MILL

The public are respectfully informed,
that the

Saw Mill

of the subscriber is now in operation where he will keep on hand and for sale, all kinds of wagon timber, white oak plank and boards, ash plank and white wood boards, oak lath, chestnut rails and lath for picket fence, white walnut plank for mill cogs; all kinds of timber taken for sawing delivered at the

Mill

He will keep pine timbers for piazza columns, and will turn them at the shortest notice; also, he will cut wood screws, and keep on hand turned broom-handles, at two dollars and fifty cents a hundred.

Daniel Sammis,

Huntington, Dec. 21, 1826.

It became the favorite playhouse of boys who to-day are sedate business men. Every Saturday or other holiday, when there was breeze enough to make the huge wheel revolve, boys were



HUNTINGTON TIDE MILLS

found on the outer rims or on the roofs over the journals of the big upright shaft.

The wheel was about fifty feet in diameter, elevated at forty to fifty-six feet according to position of the rider, whether in the lower or upper rim. The wheel which gave the power was suspended from a central shaft, seventy-two feet high, built in two sections. The lower part was of pine, twenty-two inches in diameter at the bottom and thirty-nine feet long. The upper section was of white oak, thirty-three feet long and eight inches in diameter at the top. Between the two rims, which were carefully braced, were eighteen sails. They

were so arranged with weights attached to wires that they feathered when coming into the wind and filled when going before it. They swung with sudden jerks and the boys had to be careful in riding on the rims to avoid places where the sails would swing.

The upper part of the mill was blown down in a heavy gale about 1867 and since then several changes have been made in the old building. It is a time-honored structure, however, and older Huntingtonians will be glad to see the picture of this old relic, which was taken from an India ink sketch made by Henry Lockwood.



COLDSRING TANNERY—FOR GENERATIONS SOLE MANUFACTORY ON DRUM-HEADS IN THE UNITED STATES

Pedagogue's Contract

FROM the earliest times Huntington has been loyal to the cause of education. Witness the terms of the agreement made with one John Holdsworth, teacher.

The agreement verbatim is as follows:

"A covenant made the eleventh day of february, 1657, at a corte or towne meeting; betwixt the inhabitants of the town of Huntington of the one p'tie; and Jonas Holdsworth of the other p'tie, whereby the said Jonas Holdsworth doth engage himself to the said Inhabitants During the term of ffoure yeares; to be expired from the thirteenth day of Aprill next ensuing the day of the date hereof, ffor to schoole such persons or children as shall be put to him for yt end; by ye sd. Inhabitants. And likewise the sd. Inhabitants doth allso engage themselves to the said Jonas Holdsworth, for to build him a sufficient house, and to give him with ye said house, a persell of ground adjoining to it, for accommedation thereunto. And, furthermore, the said Inhabitants doth likewise engage themselves to pay unto ye said Jonas Holdsworth

for and in consideration of his sd. Schooling; twenty-five pounds (accompt) and his diat the first yeare; and allso to allow him what more may come in by ye schooling of any that come from other whars. The said twenty-five pounds is to be paid ye sd. Jonas, as folloarth: Three pounds, twentie shillings in butter at six pence p. pound, and seven pounds two shillings in good, well-sized Merchantable trading wampum, yt is well strung or steand, or in such comodities as will sute him for clothing, these to be paid him by ye first of October and three pounds twelve shillings in corne; one-halfe in wheat and the other indian, at three; and five shillings p. bushell (provided, yt it be good and merchantable) to be paid by the first of March, and ten pounds, fourteen shillings in well thriving, young cattell, that shall be then betwixt two and foure years old (the one halfe being in the stear kind) these to be Delivered him when ye yeare is expired. And also the two next ensuing years, To pay the sd. Jonas Holdsworth Thirty-five pounds p. yeare; with ye foresaid aloance of what



IN OLDEN TIMES, "A B C" CLASS—TO-DAY, THE KINDERGARTEN

may come in, by such as come from other places ; the said thirty-five pounds is to be paid as followeth (viz., five pounds in butter at six pence p. pound, and ten pounds in such wampum as is above mentioned, or in such comodities as will sute him ; these all to be paid ye first of October ; and five pound in corne ; by ye first of March, the half in wheate and the other in indian, at five and three shillings p. bushel (so that it be good Merchantable) and fifteen pounds in well thriving young cattel betwixt two and foure years, the halfe being in ye steare kind ; these are to be Delivered when ye yeare is expired (being valued by indifferent men) and the fourth or last yeare to pay ye

sd. Jonas Holdsworth ffourty pounds in such pay as is above mentioned, according to the measure and quantitie proportionally and at fore sd. times of payment.

“Allso it is agreed of that firewood bee gotten and brought for the school, when ye seasons shall require it, by such as send their children to school. And the said Jonas Holdsworth shall have liberty for to chuse ffoure men that shall be bound to him for the true performance of the foresaid engagements.

“ A rate was laid for the skull house.”

All debts, taxes, and other obligations were paid with commodities.



THE ACADEMY OCCUPIED THE SITE OF THE PRESENT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Educational Record

THE old academy, which stood at the top of the hill near the site of the present schools, is remembered by older residents of Huntington to-day, but not by the younger generation. It was a comparatively large building, well in advance of the average school house. It had a reputation that extended far and wide. Many pupils went out from it to take positions of honor and reflect credit upon the institution. Mr. S. O. Lee, now an honored resident of Huntington, was the last in charge of the Academy. When the Union Free School was established the Academy gave place to the larger and finer building which forms a part of the

present Grammar and High School edifices. The Primary and Kindergarten building was constructed later. The academy, according to Mr. Lee, stood nearer to the road than the present structure and possibly encroached on what is now the public highway.

To Huntington belongs the honor of having organized the *first* union free school in New York state. This was done under a special act of the legislature.

As in the old times, so to-day there is the keenest interest in educational affairs in Huntington, and the work done in the schools is a source of pride throughout the township.



1769-1847—HON. SILAS WOOD AND HIS HOME

Huntington's Famous Men

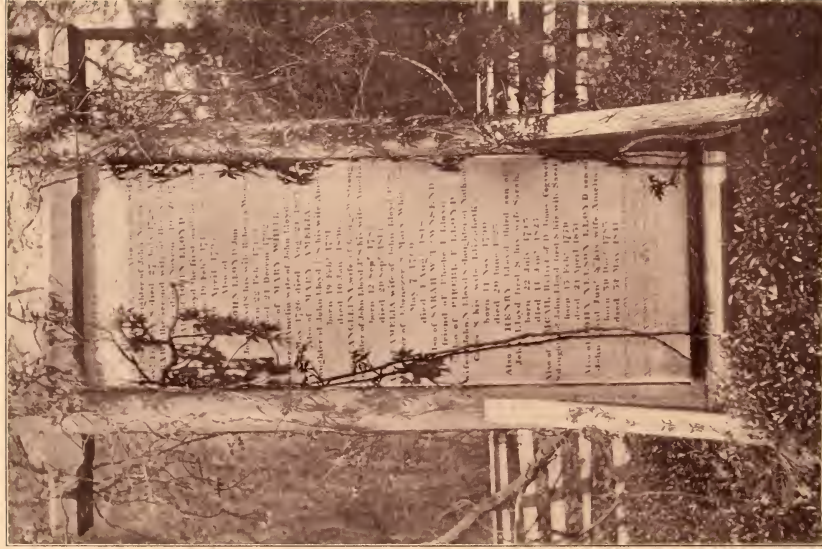
MANY famous men have had their homes in Huntington. Some of them were natives of the town. To mention them all would be to exceed the scope of this publication. Perhaps no Huntingtonian achieved greater renown than old Silas Wood.

The first Silas Wood was a principal agent in negotiating and planning for the settlement in 1653, though he did not remove to West Hills, where he settled, until later. The second Silas Wood, son of Joshua Wood, was born at West Hills September 14, 1769. He received a preparatory classical education, and, at sixteen, entered Princeton College, N. J., and graduated with honor and served for a time as tutor in the college. In 1795, at the age of 26, he was elected to the legislature from Suffolk County and served four years in Johnstown, New York. In 1813 he was made solicitor in chancery and returned to Huntington to practice his profession. In 1817 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected five successive terms. His speeches in Congress, on

the Missouri question, the tariff, commissioners to Greece, etc., were all of eminent ability. While serving in Congress he wrote a history of Long Island and he secured the establishment of a semi-weekly mail service through Long Island, the first to go east of Jamaica.

He urged the people to patronize the mail, saying if it failed to pay it would be withdrawn at the end of a year. He died March 2, 1847, leaving no children.

RICHARD CONKLIN was born in Coldspring Harbor in 1756. He was among those who took refuge from the British in New England. He skirmished with the British at the time they took Danvers and was wounded in the hand. He was a prisoner in the British fleet and as such was confined in the Barbadoes jail. At one time he was a prisoner on the admiral's ship in New York Harbor; he escaped and made his way to his home at Coldspring Harbor. His return was reported and the British attacked the house, firing



THE LLOYD FAMILY TABLET

through the barred door, where he stood until the rest of the family had escaped to a neighbor's. He then retreated through a swamp and the woods to the shore where his vessel lay. During the War of 1812 he captured a vessel loaded with grain and flour for the British.

While a prisoner on the admiral's ship off Barbados, Richard Conklin witnessed examples of the severity of English naval discipline. Two men were sentenced to receive a certain number of lashes on board every ship of the fleet. When they came along side the admiral's vessel one man had died and the other was nearly insensible.

Captain Enoch Conklin was a brother of Richard Conklin. During the war of 1812 he built a privateer called *Arrow*. She carried twenty guns and one hundred and twenty men. In 1814 she was given a commission by the United States government. She sailed from the port of New York in September of that year, but neither vessel, captain, nor crew ever returned. Stephen Bernard Conklin was an officer. Captain Conklin left a wife and three children.

Richard Montgomery Conklin was judge of

county courts. He was at one time captain of the Huntington militia company.

ONE of the bravest and most stubborn patriots of Huntington was Major Jesse Brush. It has long been said that at one time he alone repulsed a party of British who attacked his home. Rather than take the oath of submission he abandoned his farm and became one of the terrors to the Tories and soldiers stationed in and about the town.

One of the Tories of that time writes :

"A party of rebels have a place of resort at Bread and Cheese Hollow, on a by-road that leads from the houses of two men now in rebellion, viz. Nath'l Platt and Thos. Treadwell, to that of the noted Sam'l Phillips near the Branch. They extend along the road from said Phillip's to the well-known Platt Carl's, and have stopped several persons on horseback and in wagons and robbed a number of houses in Smithtown and Islip within the last ten days. They are said to be commanded by a rebel, Major Brush, formerly of Huntington."

In 1780 he was captured at Smithtown and was



REAR-ADMIRAL HIRAM PAULDING—HIS FITTING MEMORIAL

held prisoner in a New York jail for one month. He was then liberated through the efforts of Henry Scudder.

The Brush homestead, situated on Lloyd Harbor, a rendezvous for British and Tories, was the scene of many stirring events. The name Brush was especially hated by the British and no one bearing that name was treated with any consideration.

TO give especial prominence to separate families in a publication of this character might be considered out of place, but no mention of well-known Huntington families would be complete without reference to the Lloyds, who owned Lloyd Neck, by special grant. It is claimed that Lloyd Neck is the only part of the town that was visited by royalty in the days of English possession.

FEW Huntingtonians achieved greater distinction in government circles than did Hiram Paulding, Rear Admiral, U. S. N. He had a delightful home on the shore of Lloyd Harbor, the homestead overlooking Huntington Harbor. He

was very fond of his Huntington home, which was beautifully furnished and decorated with trophies from many countries. He was a nature lover and had large numbers of rare trees and plants. His simple and appropriate rough granite monument occupies a place of prominence in the graveyard, at a place where the visitor may look out over the blue waters which the Admiral loved so well, and on which he did noble service for his country.

THE Meade family has furnished many officers to the Navy Department, both as naval and marine officers, who have always served with marked ability and attained high rank.

IN recent times perhaps no Huntington man has done more to earn the lasting gratitude of his townspeople nor occupied positions of greater prominence and responsibility than Temple Prime. Born of good old Huntington stock he inherited the best tendencies and developed them to the gratification of his countrymen. He represented the United States in diplomatic capacity with



THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

pronounced success. His last years were spent in Huntington, where in a quiet way he put into execution many enterprises which were and still are of great benefit to the community. Educational

interests were uppermost in his thoughts and endeavors, and his name will ever be linked with the excellent record of the Huntington public schools.



SOME OF NATHAN HALE'S MEMORIALS

Nathan Hale

AN article written by Stephen Hempstead, Sr., published by the *Long Island Star*, 1827, says: "I was attached to Capt. Hale's Company in Col. Webb's Regiment of Continental troops and in his confidence. After the retreat of our army from Long Island he informed me he was sent for by Headquarters and was solicited to go over to Long Island to discover the disposition of the enemy's camp. He said I was to go with him as far as I could with safety and wait for his return." He tells of going as far as Norwalk and of Hale taking passage for Huntington, and of his being captured at "The Cedars," Mother Chichester's Tavern.

Onderdonk, the historian, says: "Capt. Hale, an American spy, was detected near Huntington and executed in New York." Accounts differ widely, however. The following story of this Revolutionary hero, compiled from authentic sources, has been most carefully written and all points verified by consulting all possible sources of information.

He was born in Coventry, Conn., June 6, 1755, the sixth son of stern Deacon Richard Hale and his wife Elizabeth. He developed into a large framed youth six feet tall, fond of outdoor exercise. He was the best all round athlete in Yale College, which he entered at the age of sixteen years. He was an able debater and was popular with his classmates. His motto was "A man ought never to lose a moment." This was a direct inheritance from his pious and indefatigable father.

His father intended him for the ministry, but he became a schoolmaster and his first charge was at East Haddam, Conn. His father, on his second marriage, brought into the household a step daughter, Alice. An attachment sprung up between the two which the deacon opposed. According to the custom of those days he promptly married her to Merchant Ripley.

On receipt of news of the Battle of Lexington, Hale, in addressing a mass meeting, advocated marching on to Boston. He joined the Revolutionary army. He first saw active service in the



"MOTHER CHICS'" INN—THE PLACE OF NATHAN HALE'S DISCOVERY

defense of New London. On September 24, through Johnathan Trumbull, he was introduced to Washington.

While on a furlough he received a captain's commission. At about this time it is related that he cut evening prayers to attend a wrestling match.

Following the evacuation of Boston, a British sloop anchored in the East River. Hale, of his own volition, captured this sloop from under the guns of an English war vessel and conducted her into American lines.

As he succeeded in his attempt he received thanks and forgiveness instead of censure for his unauthorized action.

In 1776 Washington, with 14,000 men, found himself awaiting the attack of 25,000 foreign veterans. The contemplated British move was of vital importance, as a simultaneous attack from both the North and East Rivers would have destroyed the American army on Manhattan Island. Washington called his officers together and asked for a spy. Hale, who had been ill, arrived late and was the only officer to volunteer to undertake to secure the desired information.

Captain John Hull, a close friend of Hale's, advised against it, saying that detection was certain. Dressed as a schoolmaster Hale walked forty miles from Harlem Heights and crossed on the foggy night of September 15, 1776, to Long Island, landing in Huntington at a place afterward called "The Cedars," near a Tory tavern kept by Widow Chichester. He reached New York in safety, remained two weeks within the British lines and undoubtedly secured much valuable information. On his return to Huntington his success in escaping detection made him reckless and overconfident. Although in the enemy's country, surrounded by British officers and Tories, he attracted attention in conversation with the officers, was recognized by one of the Tories, said to be a relative, and betrayed. Madame Chichester, rushing into the room, declared that a boat was approaching the shore. Hale, throwing all caution aside, rushed out of the tavern and down to the shore, expecting to meet a boat from a patriot ship. He gesticulated and hailed, and discovered when he reached the craft that it was filled with the enemy. Hale was taken aboard the British



MEMORIAL LIBRARY—SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AND NATHAN HALE COLUMN AT THE FOOT OF FORT GOLGOTHA HILL

guardship Halifax, Captain Quarne commanding, and thence was sent to General Howe's headquarters at New York. His first prison was a greenhouse connected with the old Beekman mansion, Fifty-first Street and First Avenue. Discovering on Hale drawings of fortifications and details of great importance to the Colonial army, Howe, recognizing the value to be gained by securing Hale's services, offered him free pardon providing he entered the British army. Hale refused and Howe ordered Provost Marshal Cunningham to hang him at daybreak, September 27, 1776. The old jail stood on the east side of City Hall Park, in New York City, under what was later the Hall of Records, and has recently been torn down.

He was refused writing materials and even the Bible by the brutal Cunningham. A guard, however, furnished the desired articles, and Hale spent the night writing letters.

Cunningham demanded a confession. Hale's reply was in the epigrammatic sentence:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Cunningham at once ordered his negro hangman, Richmond, to "swing the rebel off."

The news was carried to Alexander Hamilton, then captain of artillery, by a British officer under a flag of truce.

Near the spot where Hale was captured, on the shore of Huntington Bay, a large glacial boulder bearing three bronze tablets, suitably inscribed, has been placed. In the village center, at Huntington, and most appropriately close to the Memorial Building, a shaft of polished marble and a public drinking fountain for man and beast have been erected. Various statues have been erected in his memory, notably at City Hall Park, New York City, and on the Yale campus, New Haven, Conn.



WALT WHITMAN, HIS HOME AND HIS INSPIRING OAK

Walt Whitman

OF the many literary men who have made their homes in Huntington perhaps none has occupied a more prominent place in the public mind than Walt Whitman, bard of Huntington. Many of the happiest days of his life were spent in the good old town of Huntington, and it is universally conceded that his best work was inspired by the charming surroundings of his simple home at West Hills. Read carefully his "Specimen Days" and you get not only a fair insight into what was best in his makeup, but also many strong suggestions as to what he found most enjoyable in life. His passionate love of country life was fed by a wealth of attractions, which, oddly enough, are practically the same to-day as in the time when the poet roamed through the hills, woods, and orchards.

The quaint old house in which he made his home is still standing and is still used as a home. The

arrangements have been changed but little. The old time architecture gives a charm to the house and the little kitchen garden is fenced in, as in many other old-fashioned homes. Not far from his home, near the house of Philo Place, is the grand old oak which Whitman eulogized. The fine old woods, the bubbling springs, the babbling brooks, the broad and fertile fields, which made the poet's heart throb and brought lustre to his eye, are just as beautiful to-day as in the days when Whitman explored them. Admirers of his writings, who make pilgrimages from different points to see his former home and the glorious country surrounding, which moved him to passion, are filled with delight, and it has been said full many a time that there was in Whitman more than mere poetic fancy, surely sound judgment and appreciation of what is really good in life, or he never would have made his home among the hills of Huntington.



THE CROSS ROADS WELL AT COMMACK

Historical Briefs

IN 1771 there was an outbreak of smallpox and variolus inoculation was practised, in many cases with fatal results. Popular indignation resulted in prohibiting any persons except Dr. Gilbert Porter and Dr. Daniel Wiggins from practising inoculation. A penalty of £10 was imposed for violation of this order. Patients were inoculated and confined in quarantine. They fully recovered. Dr. Wiggins practised in the Eastern section of Huntington, Dr. Potter at Coldspring Harbor.

The first fort erected was for protection from Indians in the year 1680. It was destroyed and the materials donated to the town minister.

A dwelling and 15 acres of cleared land in the early years was worth £10 12s., while two cows were valued at £9 10s.

The only record of Indian trouble was at Coldspring in 1681, at the house of John Robinson. The Indians stole guns, tobacco, venison, and rum.

The white settlers erected at West Hills a stone fort, which they occupied nights when out hunting.

It was where Samuel Coill's orchard is. It was a solid mahogany building without doors, reached by a ladder.

About the middle of the eighteenth century there were large quantities of wheat, rye, and corn grown. Five flour mills were in constant operation and saw mills on all the brooks.

On September 14, 1775, the Provincial Congress sent 100 pounds of powder to the town of Huntington.

On September 5, 1775, Gilbert Porter, of Huntington, was elected lieutenant-colonel at a meeting held at Smithtown. The first three companies of the First, or Western Regiment of Suffolk County, elected their officers at Huntington.

In the early days Indian sewant or wampum was used very largely in place of money. John Jacob Astor employed men on Long Island to make it, that he might send it to the Northwest and exchange it with Indians for furs. As wampum was made from shells, and immense shell-heaps are found to-day in several parts of Hunt-



PRODUCTS OF THE FERTILE SOIL—OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE COLONISTS

ington town, it is probable that the Huntington Indians were engaged in this work.

It was in court that the name "Bungtown" was first used. A woman who was a witness against a Kanaka, who was arrested for disturbing the peace, hesitated when asked where she lived, then answered "Bungtown." The name has stuck to the place ever since.

Most of the Coldspring Harbor whaleships were very successful, but the "Old Tuscarora" was considered very unlucky.

Woolen manufacture was begun at Coldspring Harbor about 1700.

In 1705 Gov. Cornbury wrote to England: "I am well informed that upon Long Island and Connecticut they are setting up a woolen manufacture and I myself have seen serge made on Long Island that any man may wear. Now, if they begin to make serge they will in time make coarse cloth, and then fine. * * * I hope I may be pardoned if I declare my opinion to be that all these colonies, which are but twigs belonging to the main tree (England), ought to be kept entirely dependent upon and subservient to England."

The salt meadows at Coldspring Harbor were "sold at an outcry by an inch of ye candle." The person who bid last as the candle flame expired took the property. This was a general practice for many generations at auction sales.

Matinecock Indians had a village in Wigwam Swamp (Coldspring Harbor). There was a very large shell heap near Whitewood Point as late as 1825. A shell heap of considerable size is on the DeForest property at the present time, partially covered by vegetation, and another is on the west side, near the School of Biology.

In the early days there were apparent inconsistencies in Huntington town. Rum was a very common article of trade, yet there was a heavy penalty for drunkenness. There were also penalties for swearing, for lying, and for bigamy. One man was fined for carrying a bag of meal through Coldspring Harbor "during ye meeting hour." Another was fined "for driving his steer home on ye Sabbath."

Many of the early settlers of Coldspring Harbor were engaged in trading at ports in the Barbados, the Carolinas, and the West Indies.



COLDSPRING GRIST MILL AND NORTHPORT "TROUGH" MILL

On April 1, 1690, the town trustees voted and consented that there should be laid out 60 acres of land "upon ye north side of ye Wigwam Swamp (Coldspring Harbor) a top on ye hill reserved for a parsonage lot."

The oldest house in Coldspring Harbor is more than 250 years old. It was occupied during the revolutionary period by Capt. John Rudyard and family. He was the son of Col. Thomas Rudyard. He was the owner of the brig Lucinda, making voyages across the ocean. He was away during the battle of Long Island. When he returned, finding that his family had been annoyed by the demands of British soldiers, he had three iron bars made for each door of his house. One of his daughters married a British officer and went to Nova Scotia to live, as her husband declared he could not live under the American flag.

In 1805, when the Rev. Marmaduke Earle, of Oyster Bay, was preaching in Coldspring Harbor, there was a revival of religious feeling. One hundred people were immersed in the water of the harbor in the severe winter. The ice was cut away to permit the impressive ceremony to be performed.

It is said that the first paper made in America was manufactured at the paper mill at the dam crossing the cove just in front of the old Conklin property at Coldspring Harbor. One of the Conklins sent the paper to England and had a Bible printed on it, the first printed on American paper.

Coldspring Harbor was called by the old navigators Natchaquatuck River. Long Island Sound was called by the Indians Caumsett.

John Adams built the first mill in Coldspring Harbor, about 1660.

In 1680 a grant was made to John Robinson by the town. The next year the Indians broke into his house, rolled out a barrel of rum, stole guns and clothing and so frightened him and his family that they fled in the night to Huntington.

In 1682 a grant was made by the town to John Adams to build a saw mill; in 1790 to Devine Hewlett to build a grist mill; in 1782 to Richard Conklin to build a paper mill. These were all at Coldspring Harbor.

Land was first owned in Coldspring Harbor as a homestead in 1665.

At the first recorded meeting of the trustees



THE OLD GRIST MILL, BABYLON—NOW USED FOR MANUFACTURING TOY WHIPS

of Huntington the first business transacted was to declare void an order of commissioners laying out a highway in "Wigwarm Swamp" (Coldspring Village), July 12, 1695.

The wigwams of Long Island Indians were fifteen or twenty feet wide and eighty or more feet long, as the families might conjointly require. The frame was made of two rows of poles, bent together and covered with rushes. The bridge was left open for the smoke to escape. This frame was

interlaced with the bark of trees. Each family had its own fire for cooking and comfort. Their utensils consisted of earthen pots and gourds.

Jonas Chichester was the last deputy sent to Connecticut from Huntington, in 1663.

Previous to 1793 there was no post office on Long Island. In 1775 a Scotchman rode a voluntary post to Huntington. This was a violation of law, but the necessity of the case condoned the offense.



THE G. A. R.'S ANNUAL MARCH OF MEMORIES

The Celebration

THE occasion of the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Huntington has been seized upon as the proper time for a celebration. Uniting the feelings of pride, which are natural under the circumstances, with the patriotic sentiments of the Fourth of July, this date has been selected for the observance. All the people of Huntington have united in the preparations for the event, and there has been a zest in the perfection of plans which from the very first augured success for the undertaking.

The programme, as definitely arranged in advance, is as follows:

Friday Evening, July 3.—Reception of old residents in the Central Presbyterian Church; Colonial Ball at the Opera House.

Saturday, July 4.—Sunrise, gun salute and general flag raising throughout the town; meeting of committees in Opera House at 8:30 A. M. 9 A. M.—Parade and flag raising on site of old British Fort Golgotha on Burying Ground Hill by G. A. R. Post, cadet corps of school assisting; dedication

of cannon donated by U. S. War Department; singing by school children; speech by Townsend Scudder. 10 A. M.—Parade. 11 A. M.—Historical address by Hon. H. C. Platt at Opera House. Noon.—Colonial luncheon for guests at Union Club rooms. 1 P. M.—Flushing Seventeenth Separate Company's military drill on Main street; escort meet President Roosevelt; bells ring and cannon salute; address of welcome by Hon. William M. McKinney; invocation by the Rev. S. T. Carter; addresses by President Theodore Roosevelt, Mayor Seth Low, William H. Baldwin, Jr., St. Clair McKelway, Thomas P. Peters, U. S. District Attorney William J. Young and others; benediction by the Rev. John C. York. 8 P. M.—Band concert. 9 P. M.—Fireworks.

This to be followed on Sunday, July 5, by a union service of the churches of Huntington village in the First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. S. T. Carter, D.D., preaching.

The following is a list of officers and committees having in charge the celebration of the 250th



BABYLON'S SPLENDID SCHOOL

anniversary of the settlement of the town of Huntington :

President, Henry S. Brush.

Vice-Presidents—Walter Jennings, George W. Conklin, Henry H. Denton, Rowland Miles, Carl S. Burr, Jr., J. K. Rudyard, Robert F. Gurney, Edward S. Ireland, William Hirsch, Solomon Ketcham, Edward Daily, E. Platt Ackerly, Horatio Hall, Alexander S. Gardiner, Henry P. Carll, August Hecksher, George S. Pearsall, Henry A. Brown.

Treasurer, Douglass Conklin.

Recording Secretary, H. A. Baylis.

Corresponding Secretary, C. P. Rogers.

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ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE history of Catholicity in Huntington is the history of the Catholic religion in Suffolk County. It arose from very humble beginnings. Brought here principally by Irish immigrants in search of better conditions and more peaceful times than they had left in Ireland, it has taken deep root and promises in the not distant future to multiply a hundredfold.

In 1840 one Catholic missionary-priest went about Suffolk County visiting once in three months Greenport, Riverhead, Sag Harbor, Islip, Smithtown, and Huntington in search of Catholics to minister to them the comforts of their religion.

In sixty years that one extensive parish has developed into twenty-five parishes, with almost as many resident priests, and a church-going population of eight thousand. In 1840, the Catholic Church did not hold so much as a single piece of real estate in the county. To-day her holdings amount to six hundred thousand dollars.

The church was incorporated January 3, 1865. The incorporators were John Loughlin, John F. Turner, J. J. Crowley, Patrick Dowden, and Mott. Hoban.

What constituted the parish of Huntington thirty years ago is now divided into eight distinct parishes: Oyster Bay,

Northport, Amityville, Farmingdale, Babylon, Bayshore, Brentwood, and Islip.

The pioneer Catholic missionaries held services in private houses in the various districts and townships of the county from 1840 to 1849.

One house now standing where mass was celebrated in Huntington and mar-



riages and christenings performed is the Hoban Homestead, near the First Presbyterian Church.

On August 15th, 1849, the first Catholic Church in Huntington, and probably in Suffolk County, was opened. It was situated on the road leading from West Neck to Coldspring Harbor on ground which is now devoted to burial purposes.

The Catholics for miles around attended mass there till it was destroyed by fire in 1866. The Rev. Jeremiah J. Crowley, who was pastor at the time, set about to purchase a more desirable site for a church. He secured the present admirable property on Main and Anderson streets, a plot 200 feet square, and built upon it a substantial brick church, which seats 500 people, at a cost of \$29,000. This church was dedicated on June 27, 1869, by Bishop Loughlin. Father Crowley's labors extended to Oyster Bay, Babylon, Islip, Bayshore, Northport, and Eaton's Neck, and everywhere among the old people his name and memory are held in benediction.

After a rule of thirty-five years Bishop McDonnell transferred him to a lighter charge in Brooklyn, where he was pastor emeritus of St. Ambrose Church. Father Crowley died on August 28, 1901, and his remains lie buried in the dear old Huntington that he loved so well.

St. Patrick's communicants number 650 adults, 150 children; total, 800. The value of property is \$40,000. The non-resident priests were Rev. John O'Donnell, 1840; Rev. Michael Curran, 1846; Rev. Edward McGuinness, 1847; Rev. John McCarthy, 1854; Rev. Michael O'Neill, 1858. Resident, Rev. J. J. Crowley, 1860; Rev. John C. York, 1895.

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